

**Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA) Board
Strategic Planning [Part III]/Board Meeting
July 14, 2022**

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Lawson called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 3:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small

Absent: Bob Adrian, Roger Frye (Excused), Lynnette Grzeskowiak (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Lisa Anderson, Carolyn Bruning, Connie Cadarette, Mary Crittenden, Erin Fletcher, Diane Hayka, Larry Patterson, Nena Sork, Jen Whyte

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a group.

IV. Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were identified.

Gary Nowak stated Roger Frye is currently admitted to MyMichigan Medical Center Midland. Gary led a minute of silent prayer for Roger.

V. Appointment of Evaluator

Pat Przeslawski was appointed as evaluator for this meeting.

VI. Information and/or Comments from the Public

There were no comments presented.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Gary Nowak, supported by Terry Small, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. Consent Agenda

1. Partners in Prevention

2. Autism Contract Updates

a. Acorn Health of Michigan

b. ABA Pathways

Moved by Terry Larson, supported by Les Buza, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak. Motion carried.

IX. Strategic Planning – Educational Session

Board members reviewed the NeMCMHA Strategic Plan Proposal. The mission statement, vision, and core values will remain unchanged. Board members first looked at forces in the environment impacting behavioral health. Nena Sork stated opposition to the Shirkey and Whiteford bills is well organized and there is a lot of support from judges, sheriffs, probate, etc., as well as a massive influx of calls to the governor's office opposing the bills. Eric Lawson stated the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) approval for loan forgiveness should help with staff recruitment. Nena said the Agency is below

70 open positions for the first time in a while, as there are currently 68 open positions. In the month of June and the first two weeks of July there have been 22 new hires.

Board members next reviewed their current goals. While looking at the goal of reducing the risk of metabolic syndrome in adults and children, Nena stated coordination of care with primary care providers has increased and there is open communication with those providers if the individual served allows it, with the majority of individuals being agreeable to this. Staff can help individuals get to their primary care provider appointments and even attend with them to aid in understanding the information being discussed. Nena stated this increased coordination of care has helped to catch cancer and thyroid diagnoses and those individuals were able to get early interventions. Board members agreed to keep this an active goal.

Nena discussed the internal goals the Agency has created after holding their stakeholder meeting. The state sends out questions which are passed along to the schools, law enforcement, and the justice system, among others, and the public are also welcome to attend the meeting and answer the questions. After the meeting, the Agency develops their goals based on the feedback received. The current targeted goals address community education, expanding Behavioral Health Home (BHH), increasing transportation assistance, strengthening relationships with law enforcement, and expanding peer support services. Nena stated it would be beneficial to include these goals with the Board Ends so they could be worked on together.

The next Board goal reviewed addresses promoting a trauma-informed community. Nena stated there is a lot of work to be done, as many need help with trauma, and adults who have past trauma need support. The Agency is very involved with community partners who work with trauma. Nena stated the Agency's current goal of community education would complement the Board's trauma goal.

Eric stated it's important for people to know NeMCMHA can screen children. Terry Larson said he would like to see the Agency do all they can to work with the schools to help identify and deal with risks. Nena said the recently retired AMA ESD superintendent had been working with her on screening children who may be at risk for doing something violent or being a victim of violence. NeMCMHA and the AMA ESD had an agreement in place that NeMCMHA would see any child who scored high on the risk screen. Nena stated it is the Agency's job to assume the risk for these individuals. The Board was in consensus to keep the trauma goal.

The Board next reviewed their goal of supporting and expanding services to children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder. Nena stated the Agency cannot expand more at this time, as they currently contract with every available autism program. The Board was in agreement to revise this goal to remove "expand."

The goal of coordinating community education and partnership in suicide prevention will be kept. Nena stated Alcona County had the second highest suicide rate in the state between 2005 and 2020, with 28.6 suicides per 100,000 persons. The highest in the state was Iosco County. Nena thinks a focus has to be put on suicide prevention, as those in rural communities can't get into psychiatrists and therapists. Nena stated very few of the recorded suicides were community mental health clients, with many being males aged 40 and over, as well as many veterans. While the demographics or the number of professionals can't be changed, the stigma around mental health can be reduced, and the Agency's crisis services can be increasingly advertised for the community.

The Board was in agreement to keep their goal of increasing substance use disorder services and training, as well as keeping their goal of collaborating with the VA. Nena has found veterans who were honorably discharged receive great services from the VA, but those veterans who were medically or dishonorably discharged and may fall through the cracks can be seen by the Agency.

The goal of further utilizing the Health Information Exchange (HIE) will be revised to include the new name of Great Lakes Health Connect, as well as adding information about the internal PCE portal used

by the Agency. NeMCMHA is notified through HIE if an individual is admitted, transferred, or discharged for physical health reasons.

The goal of keeping current in IT will be kept. Nena stated some of the surplus funds are being used to renovate the computer lab, as well as setting up a mobile computer lab. The Board did not think any new goals needed to be added, especially with there still being 68 open positions within the Agency.

The Board next reviewed current barriers/challenges. Nena has tasked staff to work on recruiting even more direct care workers. The Agency provides training and education for direct care workers, and Nena would like to start working with the college in September to possibly create a certification for direct care work. Nena stated the Agency is encouraging people to open foster care homes, and they support them and help them get licensed. The Board also reviewed the current opportunities. Nena is focusing on opening an office in Alcona County, so the Agency can have a stronger impact with a physical presence.

Nena stated the Agency needs relief from the Sub-End of increasing the number of children receiving home-based services, as there are currently eight open positions in the department. Erin Fletcher stated at the end of May 42% were receiving home-based services. The original goal of the Sub-End was 80%. Nena will speak with staff to see how this Sub-End can be revised to be more realistic, either by decreasing the percentage goal or by removing a specific percentage in favor of simply "increasing" home-based services. The Sub-End of developing one additional contract residential provider will be revised to state, "strive to develop."

The Sub-Ends regarding co-occurring disorders will be continued. The current goal is to have 10% of eligible individuals enrolled in BHH, and per Mary Crittenden, the Agency is currently at around 23%. Nena, Mary, and Board members were in agreement to raise the goal to 30%. The Sub-Ends for financial outcomes will be kept as good fiscal responsibility. The Sub-Ends for community education will be expanded, as Nena and the Agency are trying to be more creative with community outreach. The Sub-End will be revised to include events and education. All discussed revisions will be shown to the Board in September and will be adopted in October.

X. Budget Amendment #2

Connie Cadarette presented Budget Amendment #2. The amendment was done to clean up the budget, as some new departments were put in place this year and had to be estimated on the original budget. Now they have eight months of data and can do a more accurate amendment to the budget. Revenues are up for Medicaid and Healthy Michigan, more money has been received from the NMRE rebate, and an efficiency rebate has also been received.

Larry Patterson reported on the amended Expenditure Budget. Health insurance and prescriptions were the two largest decreases, and funding was reallocated from those line items. Larry reviewed line items receiving reallocations, with the largest reallocation of \$1.5 million going to Contracted Employees/Services.

Moved by Les Buza, supported by Gary Nowak, to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Geyer Balog, Les Buza, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Gary Nowak, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak. Motion carried.

XI. July Monitoring Reports

1. Budgeting 01-004

Connie Cadarette reviewed the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Change in Net Position for the month ending May 31, 2022. Connie stated there are still a few variances, but with 66.67% of the year elapsed, the Agency is staying very close to what was expected, sitting at 64.56%.

Gary Nowak departed the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Larry Patterson reviewed the negative variances on the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Change in Net Position. Funds have been reallocated to the line items with negative variances. Larry stated the line for Capital Equipment is a timing issue and will be resolved.

2. Asset Protection 01-007

There were no questions or comments on the Asset Protection monitoring report.

3. Community Resources 01-010

The Community Resources monitoring report details the Agency's collaborative and productive relationships in the community.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve the July Monitoring Reports as presented. Motion carried.

XII. Board Policies Review and Self-Evaluation

1. Community Resources 01-010

The Board agreed they are abiding by this policy.

2. Public Hearing 02-010

The Board and present staff were in agreement the Board is abiding by this policy.

Les Buza departed the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

XIII. Linkage Reports

1. Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

a. June 22, 2022 Meeting

Nena Sork reported they are still working on advocacy regarding the proposed senate bills. NMRE Board members received an update on Northern Lakes CMHA. Nena brought up a news article from 07/13/22 which stated two primary members with lived mental health experience were removed from the Northern Lakes Board. Nena stated this will spill over to the overall perception of community mental health and could affect funding for the other CMH Boards and NeMCMHA. The proposed new CMH would have to be a part of, and receive funding from, the NMRE.

2. Board Committee Per Diem Discussion

Members of the Advisory Council currently receive a \$25 per diem. Recipient Rights volunteer community members currently do not receive a per diem. Bonnie Cornelius stated the per diem for the Recipient Rights committee shouldn't change, as they are volunteers, and Pat Przeslawski was in agreement. Advisory Council is a requirement of NeMCMHA's contract with MDHHS, but their per diem hasn't change since its inception. Terry Small would like to see it raised to \$35.

Moved by Terry Small, supported by Bonnie Cornelius, to approve raising the Advisory Council member per diem to \$35. Roll call: Ayes: Geyer Balog, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Gary Nowak. Motion carried.

XIV. Operations Report

Mary Crittenden reviewed the services provided by staff for the month ending June 30, 2022. There were 40 routine requests for services and 46 hospital prescreens, 13 of which were placed in private hospitals. Community Living Support Services for I/DD served 100 and 66 were served for MI. Per Mary, the summer months are typically a little slower, with 989 individuals being served in June.

XV. Chair's Report

Eric Lawson stated he will probably be absent for the August Board meeting. Bonnie Cornelius would be next in the line of succession and agreed to run the meeting. The August meeting will also be Diane Hayka's last meeting before retiring.

Eric stated his name appeared in a political flyer endorsing a candidate as the NeMCMHA Board Chair. Eric explained he hadn't been asked to give his title as Board Chair, and he cannot endorse a political candidate on behalf of the Agency. Eric reiterated that NeMCMHA isn't a political organization. Eric has posted an official statement on the Agency Facebook and Instagram. Eric further explained what Board members endorse as individuals is fine, but it cannot be done from Board seats.

1. Planning for Executive Director Evaluation

The Board will be evaluating executive performance as shown on the monthly monitoring reports. Rebekah Duhaime can provide any past reports Board members would like to see.

XVI. Director's Report

1. Director's Update

Nena Sork provided Board members with a quick update of the various activities she participated in during the past month. Nena has attended three of the four county commission meetings in the last month, as well as attending the MMRA renewal meeting. Nena stated she attended the BCBS pre-renewal meeting, and the Agency shouldn't have to pass along an increase to staff this year.

2. Employee Handbook

Nena discussed with the Board the Agency's need for an official employee handbook, as there are over 130 policies staff should be familiar with. They have found an organization that can create an employee handbook completely customized for the Agency for \$4,000. The only other option they found was a subscription service which would cost \$12,000.

Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Judy Jones, to approve moving forward with an Employee Handbook. Roll call: Ayes: Geyer Balog, Bonnie Cornelius, Judy Jones, Terry Larson, Eric Lawson, Pat Przeslawski, Terry Small; Nays: None; Absent: Bob Adrian, Les Buza, Roger Frye, Lynnette Grzeskowiak, Gary Nowak. Motion carried.

Nena stated the new psychiatrist, Dr. Thibault, starts on August 1. Nena also shared the Individual Placement and Support employment program attended their annual summit, and they were recognized out of 23 community mental health organizations as one of the top three programs in the state for their employment rate, as well as being in the top five for employment lasting longer 180 days or longer.

Nena stated employee recognition will be on August 16, and the staff picnic and annual training will be the following day.

3. QI Council Update

The most recent QI Council minutes were provided for Board review. There were no comments or questions.

XVII. Information and/or Comments from the Public

Lisa Anderson thanked the Board for their approval of the employee handbook project and stated it will be wonderful for all employees.

XVIII. Information and/or Comments for the Good of the Board

There was no additional information and/or comments for the good of the Board.

XIX. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority Board will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

1. Set August Agenda

The August agenda items were reviewed.

2. Meeting Evaluation

Pat Przeslawski stated the meeting started mostly on time (Rebekah Duhaime will fix the clock in the Board Room), and Board members had a lot of discussion with over 75% of the Board participating. Pat stated empathy was very obvious from the Board, but they were also very practical.

XX. Adjournment

Moved by Pat Przeslawski, supported by Terry Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
This meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

[Signed by Bonnie Cornelius on 08-11-22] _____
Bonnie Cornelius, Secretary

[Signed by Eric Lawson on 08-11-22] _____
Eric Lawson, Chair

Rebekah Duhaime
Recorder